1. [currently amended] A method for producing a heterologous protein which comprises

1) culturing a mutant coryneform bacterium having a genetic expression construct wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a signal peptide region derived from a coryneform bacterium is ~~connected to the~~ downstream of a promoter sequence which functions in a coryneform bacterium and a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous protein is ~~connected to the~~ downstream of said nucleic acid sequence encoding said signal peptide region, said mutant coryneform bacterium ~~being a mutant coryneform bacterium~~ having a capacity of secreting the heterologous protein at least 2-fold higher than the wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC13869,

2) allowing said mutant coryneform bacterium to produce said heterologous protein, and

3) recovering said ~~produced~~ heterologous protein.

2. [currently amended] The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said mutant coryneform bacterium is *Corynebacterium glutamicum* AJ12036 (FERM BP-734) or a mutant thereof.

3. [currently amended] The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said mutant coryneform bacterium ~~is a mutant strain which~~ does not produce a cell surface protein and which is derived from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* AJ12036 (FERM BP-734)

4. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises ~~is~~ a signal peptide of a cell surface protein from a coryneform bacterium.

5. [currently amended] The method ~~of any one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises ~~is~~ a signal peptide of a cell surface protein from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* .

6. [currently amended] The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises ~~has~~ the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ

ID NO:1 ~~or~~ and SEQ ID NO:2.

7. [currently amended] The method ~~of any one~~ of claim 1 ~~to 3~~,wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises ~~is~~ a signal peptide of a cell surface protein derived from *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*.

8. [currently amended] The method of claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide comprises ~~has~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

9. [currently amended] The method of claim 5 ~~or 7~~, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide ~~has~~ comprises a sequence having at least one replacement, deletion, addition, or insertion of an amino acid, or a combination thereof in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 ~~to SEQ ID NO:3~~.

10. [currently amended] The method ~~of any one~~ of claim 1 ~~to 9~~, wherein ~~the~~ said cultureing of said ~~the~~ mutant coryneform bacterium is conducted in a medium containing at least 0.25 g/l (2.25mM) ~~or more~~ of calcium ion.

11. [currently amended] The method ~~of any one~~ of claim 1 ~~to 9~~, wherein ~~the~~ said cultureing of the mutant coryneform bacterium is conducted controlling the dissolved oxygen concentration at 3% or less.

12. [new] The method of claim 7, wherein said signal peptide comprises a sequence having at least one replacement, deletion, addition, or insertion of an amino acid, or a combination thereof in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.